

Message Text

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17

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 EB-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1929

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: PRE-LICENSING CHECK ON LCM VESSELS TO IRAN
(MC CASE NOS. 94200 AND 94182)

REFS: (A) STATE 121503;(B) TEHRAN 4911

1. MR. LAROON, PRESIDENT OF MARITIME CO., LTD., PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. MARITIME IS SOLE CARRIER FOR NIOC IN PERSIAN GULF AREA. IT IS ALSO CARRIER FOR PAHLAVI FOUNDATION. AS SUCH, MARITIME IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND DRY CARGO IN COASTAL TRADE, INCLUDING VISITS TO IRANIAN ISLANDS. MARITIME HAS ALREADY ACQUIRED SURPLUS LSTS AS WELL AS AN LCT FROM USN. FORMER ARE TOO LARGE FOR DESIRED OPERATIONS AT CHAH BAHR AND ELSEWHERE. NEW LCMS MAY ALSO BE USED AS LIGHTERS TO HELP LOAD AND UNLOAD SHIPS OUTSIDE CROWDED IRANIAN PORTS.

B. MARITIME HAS NO INTENTION OF TRANSFERRING VESSELS. VERY LIKELY THEY WILL BE OPERATED UNTIL SCRAPPED. WE ASKED MR. KAROON FOR A LETTER TO THIS EFFECT.

2. WORLD TRADERS DATA REPORT FOR MARITIME DATED 1973 IS ON FILE IN COMMERCE. THE FIRM APPEARS TO QUITE REPUTABLE AND WELL ESTABLISHED. AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHahr HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING REPORT:

"MARITIME SHIPPING COMPANY LTD. IS LARGE KHORRAMSHahr
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FIRM THAT OWNS FLEET OF TWENTY TANKERS AND CARGO

SHIPS AND HAS STAFF OF OVER 400 EMPLOYEES. COMPANY IS INVOLVED IN TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN IRAN AND ARAB STATES OF GULF. IT IS ALSO EXCLUSIVE AGENT IN IRAN FOR SIX FOREIGN SHIPPING LINES, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN-OWNED WATERMAN STEAMSHIP CORPORATION.

"MARITIME IS 95 PERCENT OWNED AND MANAGED BY MR. MAJID KAROON, PROMINENT LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR AND BUSINESSMAN. HE MAINTAINS HOME IN TEHRAN AND TRAVELS FREQUENTLY AND EXTENSIVELY. FIRM HAS A WORKING CAPITAL OF RIALS 320,000,000 AND ENJOYS EXCELLENT REPUTATION WITH LOCAL BANKING AND TRADE SOURCES. CONSULATE CAN SEE NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION."

3. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT EXPORT LICENSES BE GRANTED EXPEDITIOUSLY. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT VESSELS WOULD BE TRANSSHIPPED TO SOME OTHER DESTINATION.

4. PLEASE REPLY REF B.
MIKLOS

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